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GOSFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Northumberland

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

year ended 31st December, 1955.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health Madge Hopper, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector George Stenger, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector George Oxley, A.R.S.I., H.S.I.A.

Clerks - Mrs. C.E. Raine

Miss W. Oliver.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1955.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1955.

The vital statistics of the Urban District remained similar to those of previous years, with the exception that the number of live births increased by 48 on the number the previous year, and that the natural increase of the resident population (excluding residents in hospital) was 139, whereas in 1954, it had reached the extremely low level of 23.

The figures for tubercle showed a slight rise in the mortality rate from the pulmonary form of the disease. There was a welcome decline in the incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis in the younger age groups but a slight rise in incidence of the non-pulmonary form of the disease from 4 cases notified in 1954 to 8, in 1955.

The total number of infectious fevers notified during the year increased to 382 from 280 the previous year.

This rise was due chiefly to the increase in notifications of Measles. The incidence of Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough remained at a low level.

During the first quarter of the year, Sonne dysentery was prevalent in the urban district and it was not until the end of April that the majority of the cases were clear. As the illness was generally mild a considerable amount of detailed work was done by the staff of the Health Department in investigation and surveillance.

A fairly severe case of paratyphoid fever occurred in a young baby who was admitted to Walkergate Hospital, the notification being received by the City Authority.

One case only of acute poliomyelitis occurred during the year. Fortunately the patient recovered fully.

Though slum clearance is not a major problem in the urban district, it is pleasing to note that a commencement has been made, eight houses in flats in Ash Street and five houses in Chapel Street being dealt with in 1954 and preliminary work on a further twelve houses in 1955.

Formal action under the National Assistance Act and National Assistance (Amendment) Act was necessary in three cases.

This was an unusually high number as in previous years court action or a magistrate's order has only been necessary about once a year.

Investigations under this Act were made in several additional cases but fortunately other solutions to the problems presented were found, such as voluntary admission to Old Peoples' Homes, Home Helps, etc.

From time to time some distressing problems of aged people in difficult circumstances occurred.

In conclusion, may I express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the interest they have taken in the work of my department and for their continued encouragement in the work, to all the Staff of the Health Department and in particular to Mr. Stenger, the Senior Sanitary Inspector, for his sustained and active work during the year, and to the Clerk and other Officers of the Council for their co-operation and help.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
M. HOPPER,
Medical Officer of Health.

I. VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION.

The Registrar General's estimated mid year population was 24,730, an increase of 190 on the previous year.

This population is concentrated in a relatively small area consisting of four wards. The majority of the inhabitants work in the adjoining City of Newcastle upon Tyne and other parts of Tyneside and the number of industries within the district is very small.

BIRTHS.

The total number of births registered in 1955 was 418, giving a birth rate (corrected for age and sex distribution) of 17.2 per 1,000 population compared with a total of 370 births registered in 1954 and a birth rate of 15.3.

The birth rate for the country generally was 15.0 per 1,000 population.

There were 8 illegitimate births in 1955 and 4 in 1954. Eight still-births were registered during the year and four in the previous year.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths registered in 1955 was 391, 279 being of residents and 112 deaths in the St. Nicholas Hospital. The death rate (corrected for age and sex distribution) was 15.7 per 1,000 population and that for England and Wales was 11.7.

In 1954, the total number of deaths registered was 347, 249 were of residents and 98 deaths in the hospital, the death rate for the district that year was 13.5 per 1,000 population.

There was therefore an increase of 44 deaths in 1955, 30 of residents and 14 deaths in the hospital with a corresponding increase in the death rate.

NATURAL INCREASE OF THE POPULATION.

The number of live births in excess of deaths (other than in the hospital) was 139 for the year. In 1954, this increase was only 23, having been 114 in 1953. In the country generally, the live births exceeded the deaths by 146,054. The corresponding increase the previous year was 170,739.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Twelve deaths of infants under one year of age were registered in 1955, compared with 13 the previous year.

This gives an infant mortality rate of 28.7 per 1,000 live births compared with 35.1 in 1954. The rate for the country in 1955 was 24.9 per 1,000 live births.

The decrease in the infant mortality rate for the district in 1955 is slight but welcome.

The number of neo-natal deaths, i.e., deaths of infants during the first month of life, decreased to 6 from 8 in the previous year. Congenital defects were the primary cause in 3 deaths, prematurity in one death, and toxæmia and anaemia in two deaths. No death from birth injury was registered.

Six deaths of infants between the first month of life and the end of the first year were recorded. Of these, two deaths had prematurity as an underlying cause, with infection as a primary cause, three were due to infections and one to infanticide.

The number of deaths due to infective causes increased slightly and those from birth causes showed a decided fall.

There has been no death registered from diarrhoea and enteritis under 2 years of age for the last few years.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

As in the previous year, one maternal death was registered. The maternal mortality rate for the country was 0.64 per 1,000 live and still births and that for this district was 2.3.

INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Deaths classified as due to heart and circulatory diseases numbering 196, were the largest group of individual causes of death of the total number of deaths of 391 in 1955.

Deaths in this group increased from 158 in 1954.

The number of deaths classified as due to vascular lesions of the nervous system also increased to 58, from 38 in 1954.

Deaths from 'Other Malignant Neoplasms' remained similar in both years, namely, 49 in 1955 and 50 in 1954. There was no significant increase in the number of deaths from Malignant Neoplasm of any particular site.

Deaths classified as due to respiratory diseases, (other than tuberculosis) were also similar in both years, 27 in 1955 and 25 in 1954.

No death from an acute infective fever or from 'other infective and parasitic diseases' was registered in 1955. There were three deaths under the latter heading in 1954.

Deaths from ulcer of the stomach and duodenum numbered 3 in both years.

Fortunately, the number of deaths from accidents showed a slight fall.

There was one death from a motor vehicle accident compared with two the previous year.

Deaths from accidents 'other than motor vehicle' were 10, in 1955 and 12, in 1954. This latter was an unusually high figure.

Three of these deaths occurred at the St. Nicholas Hospital. Of the seven deaths among residents of the district, three had falls contributing to the cause of death; one death was due to a fractured skull following a fall in the street; one to drowning and two to accidental coal gas poisoning.

The number of deaths from suicide numbered five in 1955 (none of these were deaths in the St. Nicholas Hospital), and four, in 1954.

II. TUBERCULOSIS.

The mortality rate for Tuberculosis (all forms) was 0.20 per 1,000 population and that for the country in 1955 was 0.13. Four of the deaths were from the pulmonary form of the disease and occurred in the later age groups of 45-65 years and over. One death was of a patient in the St. Nicholas Hospital. There was one death from Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The mortality rate for all forms of tuberculosis in 1954 was 0.16 and in 1953, 0.24 per 1,000 population.

This slight upward trend of the mortality rate in 1955 emphasises the importance of the earliest possible diagnosis to achieve the best results of treatment which nowadays holds out so much more hope.

The number of primary notifications of pulmonary tubercle during the year was 24, (13 male and 11 female) compared with 25, in 1954 (17 male and 8 female).

The incidence of the disease declined considerably in the younger age groups of both sexes, one case of pulmonary tuberculosis being notified in the under 20 age group compared with 9 under the age of 20 years in the previous year.

In 1955, the greater number of new notifications, i.e., five, occurred in the 20 to 25 years age group in males.

The incidence of the Non-pulmonary form of the disease increased to eight cases notified in 1955 from four in 1954 and 12, in 1953.

A considerable number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis was again inwardly transferred to the urban district, a total of 15 during the year. In 1954, 17 cases were transferred into the district. In the two years, 32 cases came into the district compared with 49 primary cases notified during that time, so that the number of inward transfers was indeed appreciable.

Patients from this district are under the care of the Senior Chest Physician at the New Bridge Street Chest Clinic, Newcastle upon Tyne, and are admitted to Walkergate Hospital and to the

various Sanatoria of the region as required. Admission to sanatoria has been rapid during the last few years, occurring within a few days of diagnosis.

Family contacts are kept under surveillance, especially children at risk. B.C.G. vaccination is given to children as necessary both at clinic and school, with the parents consent.

The general public can attend the Mass Radiography Unit at the General Hospital, Newcastle as required. The Unit which is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board did not visit the district as concentration on industrial and selected groups is more productive of case finding than public sessions and therefore more economic.

III. GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY.

During the year, a total of 382 cases of infectious fevers was notified compared with 280 the previous year.

Measles accounted for the majority of the notifications, 238 cases occurring in 1955 whereas in 1954, 90 cases were notified. 1955 was the year of bi-ennial increase in the incidence of Measles comparable to 1953, when 227 cases were notified. The peak of the notifications was in March and April when 43 and 61 cases, respectively, were notified. One patient with complications following the disease was admitted to Walkergate Hospital.

The incidence of Whooping Cough decreased to 53 cases notified in 1955, from 130 during the previous year.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified showed a slight increase to 17, in 1955, from 13, in 1954. All cases were of a very mild type.

No case of Diphtheria was notified for the third successive year.

Dysentery. In all, 57 cases of dysentery, (14 Flexner and 43 Sonne) were notified during the year.

The cases of Flexner dysentery occurred at the St. Nicholas Hospital during the first quarter of the year. Eleven cases, all in one ward, were notified in January, two, in February and in March, one case, the other cases and contacts having been cleared.

At the beginning of February, several children attending different schools in the district were absent owing to a mild illness of sickness and diarrhoea.

Investigations were made in 85 cases, consisting of 78 children and seven adults. Forty children and six adults were found to be positive excretors of *Sh. sonnei*. The illness was of a mild type except in one or two instances.

At the end of April, 36 cases had been notified but this does not give a clear picture of the outbreak as many cases were so mild that the clinical symptoms had cleared before the case was investigated.

During the three months, 476 stool specimens were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, 155, being positive and 321, negative.

All cases reported by the family doctors and the School Medical Officers of suspected Sonne dysentery were investigated and the cases and positive family contacts kept under surveillance until clear.

By the end of April, the number of positive cases was reduced to four and no further case occurred in the district for some time.

In June, five further cases of Sonne dysentery were notified. Three occurred in one household, two cases being visitors from the south. The other cases were isolated ones and one patient was admitted to Walkergate Hospital with a severe attack of the disease.

By the end of the year, no further case had occurred.

Paratyphoid Fever. Information was received that a baby of four months had been admitted to Walkergate Hospital and was found to be suffering from Paratyphoid Fever.

On investigation of the rest of the family, the mother of the baby was found to be excreting the organisms though she had had no symptoms of the disease. This was an isolated case and no link with other cases or food could be established. Recovery of the baby was complete but positive stools of both mother and baby persisted for some time.

Food Poisoning. During the course of the Sonne dysentery investigations, one child a girl of three years, was found to be suffering from food poisoning due to *Salmonella Typhi-murium*. The child had a fairly severe illness and both her father and mother were found to be positive excretors of the organism. The child received treatment and the family were kept under surveillance until clear.

Acute Poliomyelitis. In early November, one case of acute polio-encephalitis was notified, a little girl of six years. The initial symptoms were severe. The child was unconscious and had some weakness of the right arm. She was admitted to the Walkergate Hospital, where she improved rapidly and returned home about ten days later, all symptoms having subsided with no sequelae. Close contacts and school contacts of the case were kept under surveillance for the requisite period.

During the summer, several contacts of notified cases of polio yelitis occurring in other districts were also kept under surveillance.

Malaria. A case of malaria was notified in April. The disease was imported, the initial symptoms occurring at sea during a voyage from Nigeria to this country.

Influenza. During the winter, in conjunction with the general practitioners of the district, a watch was kept for any outbreak of Influenza as distinct from the common cold, with negative results.

Ringworm. In June, seven children in the district contracted ringworm. On investigation, it was found that a cat and her kittens were suffering from the animal form of the disease and had infected two of the children. The animals were destroyed.

IV. HOUSING.

The number of applications for Council houses was 921 at the end of 1955.

1,394 houses have been erected by the Council since 1944, 24 being completed during 1955.

Six cases of tuberculosis were rehoused in more suitable accommodation, of whom two cases already living in Council houses were transferred to larger ones.

During the year the Council resolved that an area comprising 12 houses, namely, Nos. 1-5 South Street, Coxlodge, and Nos. 2-3 Chapel Street, Coxlodge, be declared a Clearance Area within the meaning of Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936, and that the area be described as the Gosforth (South Street) Clearance Area.

Information in tabular form is given in the detailed Housing Section of the Report.

V. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951.

Section 50. Burial or Cremation of the Dead. It was found necessary to arrange for the burial of one person under the provisions of this section.

Section 47. Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. Seven cases were investigated under this Section during the year, involving 73 visits by the staff of the department. In three cases, formal action was necessary, a magistrate's order being obtained for the removal of two elderly women and one man, two to the Thomas Taylor Homes and one to Preston Hospital.

One of the elderly women died in the Thomas Taylor Homes, the other returned home from Preston Hospital and voluntarily

entered the Thomas Taylor Homes for a short period. She has now been at home for some time and is managing with the services of a Home Help.

In the case of the elderly man, a Court Order was obtained for a further period in the Thomas Taylor Homes where he subsequently died.

In the other cases, voluntary admission to Old Peoples' Homes was obtained in two cases and in the remaining cases, other solutions of the problems such as the services of a Home Help, were found.

VI. MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

119 milk samples were taken at regular intervals during the year. Fifteen samples were submitted for examination for tubercle bacilli, but none were positive.

An analysis of the results of the samples is given in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.

VII. FOOD HYGIENE AND HEALTH EDUCATION.

Regular visits were paid by the staff of the department to the 152 food shops in the district, and efforts made to bring the importance of hygiene home both to the staffs of food premises and the general public.

It was not found necessary to take any action under the Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Several lectures were given by the Senior Sanitary Inspector on Public Health matters to selected groups. The opportunity is taken on visits to food premises to give individual advice.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

The details under this Section have been supplied by Mr. Stenger, Senior Sanitary Inspector.

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

(a) Regional Hospital Board. There are two hospitals in the Urban District, the St. Nicholas Hospital for the treatment of mental diseases and the Sanderson Orthopaedic Hospital.

(b) Tuberculosis Service. Cases from the Urban District attend the Chest Clinic, New Bridge Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, under the Senior Chest Physician.

Institutional treatment is provided in one of the Sanatoria or Walkergate Hospital, or in the case of children at the Childrens' Sanatorium at Stannington.

(c) Local Authorities Services. Services (3) (4) (5) (6) and (7) and the care of the buildings in Section (2) are administered by the South Area Health Sub-Committee.

(1) Home Nursing and Midwifery. There are three general nurses and two midwives resident in the district.

(2) Maternity and Child Welfare Service. Regular sessions are held at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Church Road, Gosforth, for babies, children and expectant mothers, for dental treatment and the treatment of eye defects and skin diseases, and for Ultra Violet Ray therapy.

The extensions to the building, a room for ultra violet light, orthopaedic clinic, weighing room, doctors' consulting room and a cloak room were in use throughout the year and proved of great benefit.

(3) Ambulance Service. This service has a station at Wideopen which covers the Urban District of Gosforth and Longbenton (with the exception of West Allotment), and the adjacent parts of the Castle Ward district and works in conjunction with the Newburn and other stations.

The new depot at Wideopen was completed and occupied on October 27th, 1955. The building was officially opened by Alderman Hyde, Chairman of the Ambulance Services Sub Committee of the County Council on 12th November, 1955.

The establishment consists of a driver-supervisor, 15 driver attendants (including two day-time stretcher bearers); 5 ambulances, and one sitting car (all radio controlled).

During the year, the ambulances of the Wideopen Station made 4,792 journeys, carried 22,878 patients including 789 accident and emergency cases, 2,745 stretcher cases and did a total mileage of 154,316 miles.

(4) Immunisation and Vaccination. Immunisation against Diphtheria is carried out at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre (children 0-5 years), at the Schools and by the General Practitioners of the district.

At December 31st, 1955, 91% of the total child population had been immunised at some time during their lives; 79% of the children (0-4 years), and 98% of the children (5-14 years).

The previous year, 91% of the total child population had been immunised at some time; 80% of children (0-4 years) and 98% of the (5-14 years).

The main object of the campaign remains as before to secure an adequate level of immunisation throughout the child population and more especially in the younger age group up to four years where the fatality rate is still high compared with other age groups.

The Immunity Index which shows the number of children in each age group immunised in the last five years, was introduced by the Ministry of Health in 1953.

In 1955, the Immunity Index was 75% (all children under 15 years); 23% (children under one year), 95% (children 1-4 years) and 73% (children 5-14 years).

In 1954, the comparable figures were 80% (all children under 15 years), 23% (children under one year), 94% (children 1-4 years), 80% (children 5-14 years).

The aim of every baby being immunised before the first birthday is still the main endeavour in the field as is keeping the level of general immunisation above the 75% mark.

Whooping Cough Prophylaxis. During the year, a total of 295 children (194 under one year, 88, 1-4 years and 13, 5-14 years) received prophylaxis with either pertussis vaccine or a combined diphtheria and pertussis immunisation compared with a total of 62 children in 1954 and 34, in 1953.

The giving of a combined immunisation increased in 1955.

Vaccination against Smallpox. The number of primary vaccinations increased to a total of 219, in 1955, from 159 in 1954.

There were 58 re-vaccinations during the year and 54 during the previous year. These figures for vaccinations done during 1955 are the best obtained in the urban district in recent years.

(5) Home Help Services. A total of 218 (220) patients resident in the district received the services of a home help for varying periods during the year.

The cases included 44 (40) of confinements, 49 (44) of illness, 109 (104) aged and infirm people, 7 (6) blind and 6 (8) cases of tuberculosis and 3 (2) problem cases.

The figures in brackets indicate the number of cases served during the previous year and show a similarity.

(6) Care and After-care. Meetings of the Gosforth and Castle Ward After-care Sub Committee were held at two-monthly intervals and aid to patients suffering from tuberculosis towards milk, clothing, travelling expenses of relatives to sanatoria, etc., were granted in suitable cases and an effort made to help in difficult circumstances.

(7) Nursing Care Committee. The Gosforth Nursing Care Committee which is composed of voluntary members, keeps a stock of nursing requisites at the Child Welfare Centre for use on loan to sick people in the district.

During 1955, 262, articles of nursing equipment were loaned for the use of sick persons at home.

A store building, brick built and measuring 17 feet by 12 feet was erected during the year by this Committee.

The building is extremely good for the storage of all the nursing equipment required for loan to sick people in the district. It has electric heaters and good storage facilities for the various types of articles, and is of sufficient size to house the wheel-chairs.

The last few years have seen the growth of voluntary organisations for the care of old people. A Committee of the Old Peoples' Welfare Association was established in the district in 1955 and made a good start.

These excellent voluntary organisations help in the various problems of the aged, and generally include some visiting of the sick.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.Particulars of District.

Area (in acres)	1739
Registrar General's estimated population	24,730
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books at 31st March, 1955.	7,881
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£999
Rateable value at 31st March, 1955.	£245,344.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Live births (legitimate)	212	198	410
Live births (illegitimate)	2	6	8
Still births	4	2	6
Deaths	214	177	391
Birth rate per 1,000 population			17.2
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births			14.1
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population			15.7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

There was one maternal death.

Death rate of infants under 1 year.

All infants per 1,000 live births	28.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	28.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births	5

Deaths.

Deaths from Malignant Diseases (all ages)	49
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Deaths from Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea (all ages)	-

CAUSES OF DEATH.(taken from the Registrar General's Return).

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
All Causes	214 (60)	177 (52)
Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	1 (1)
Tuberculosis, other	-	1
Syphilitic disease	4 (4)	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4 (1)	6
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	17 (1)	7 (1)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-
Diabetes	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	18 (7)	38 (8)
Coronary disease, angina	45 (20)	17 (8)
Hypertension with heart disease	4	2
Other heart disease	59 (23)	57 (31)
Other circulatory disease	10	2
Influenza	1	-
Pneumonia	2 (2)	7 (1)
Bronchitis	10	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	4 (1)	2 (1)
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1
Congenital malformations	3	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	12
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-
All other accidents	5 (1)	5 (1)
Suicide	2	3
Homicide and operations of war	-	1

TABLE OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS
(1936-1955) compared with rates of England and Wales.

Year	General Death Rate		Infant Mortality rate.		Birth rate	
	Gosforth	England & Wales	Gosforth	England & Wales	Gosforth	England & Wales
1936	10.6	12.1	76.9	59	12.7	15.4
1937	11.4	12.4	42.9	58	12.9	15.5
1938	11.0	11.6	32.4	53	13.6	15.7
1939	9.78	12.1	18.0	50	13.4	15.5
1940	11.24	14.3	64.4	55	13.6	15.1
1941	10.0	11.6	50.2	53	11.2	15.7
1942	9.47	11.6	13.6	49	14.4	16.3
1943	10.7	12.1	24.1	49	16.4	17.0
1944	10.7	11.6	29.6	46	18.2	18.1
1945	13.1	11.4	36.2	46	16.0	16.5
1946	10.6	11.5	22.8	43	17.6	19.6
1947	9.1	12.0	23.6	41	18.7	21.0
1948	9.9	10.8	24.7	34	16.7	18.3
1949	9.9	11.7	28.8	32	15.7	16.7
1950	13.1	11.6	11.4	29.8	14.5	15.8
1951	11.1	12.5	25.2	29.6	14.5	15.5
1952	9.2	11.3	24.9	27.6	14.6	15.3
1953	14.1	11.4	16.1	26.8	14.4	15.5
1954	13.5	11.3	35.1	25.5	15.3	15.2
1955	15.7	11.7	28.7	24.9	17.2	15.3

INFANT MORTALITY.

Cerebral anoxia, anaemia	45 minutes
Prematurity	11 hours
Mediastinitis - tracheo-oesophageal fistula	1 day
Toxaemia	2 days
Congenital malformation	3 days
Spinal bifida	5 days
Pneumonia, prematurity	1 month
Hyperpyrexia, lower respiratory infection, prematurity	2 months
Broncho pneumonia	2 months
Syncope, acute bronchiolitis	3 months
Infanticide	3 months
Massive pulmonary oedema, lt. heart failure, ac. unknown infection	7 months

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

The table on page 17 gives the number and age groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Cases requiring hospital treatment and isolation are removed to the Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Walkergate. This hospital is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE.

Appended is a summary of Bacteriological reports received from the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newcastle General Hospital, on specimens submitted by local medical practitioners and by the Health Department.

	<u>Positive.</u>	<u>Negative.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Throat swabs for Vincent's Angina	1	6	7
Throat swabs for Diphtheria	-	12	12
Throat swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	6	12	18
Specimens of Faeces for pathogenic organisms	200	395	595
Specimen of urine for organisms	5	3	8
Specimen of post nasal washings for Whooping Cough	-	1	1
Specimen of Urine for Tuberculosis	-	1	1
Specimen of hair for Ringworm	1	-	1
Specimen of meat pie for organisms	-	1	1
Specimen of blood for Paul Bunnell Test	-	1	1
Specimens of sputum for Tuberculosis	2	4	6
	<u>215</u>	<u>436</u>	<u>651</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Table of Cases notified in the Urban District during 1955, set out in age groups.

	At all ages.	Under 1 yr	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & over
Scarlet Fever	17	-	-	-	2	1	10	4	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	53	4	6	10	3	10	20	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	238	4	24	25	28	32	116	3	3	2	1	-
Enteric-Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	57	-	1	-	2	3	13	7	2	10	13	6
Pneumonia	11	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	6	-
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polionmyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ophthalmia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	382	9	31	35	36	46	161	14	5	17	22	6

FOOD POISONING RETURN, 1955.

Outbreaks due to identified agents :-

Total outbreaks ... Nil	Total cases ... Nil
-------------------------	---------------------

Outbreaks due to :-

(a) Chemical poisons	Nil
(b) Salmonella	Nil
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin)	Nil
(d) Cl. botulinum	Nil
(e) Other bacteria	Nil

Outbreaks of undiscovered cause :-

Total outbreaks ... Nil	Total cases ... Nil
-------------------------	---------------------

Single Cases.- Agent identified :-

(a) Salmonella Typhi-murium - 1 case.

TABLE OF DIPHTHERIA NOTIFICATIONS & DEATHS.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>No. of Cases of Diphtheria.</u>	<u>No. of deaths.</u>
1936	39	-
1937	25	-
1938	27	2
1939	23	1
1940	8	1
1941	9	-
1942	10	1
1943	5	1
1944	12	1
1945	15	-
1946	5	-
1947	3	-
1948	3	-
1949	-	-
1950	1	1
1951	-	-
1952	1	-
1953	-	-
1954	-	-
1955	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age periods	NEW CASES							
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5 years	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5-10 years	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
10-15 years	-	-	-	-	1+(1 I.T)	-	-	-
15-20 years	1	-(1 I.T)	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-25 years	5	2+(3 I.T)	-	1	-	-	-	-
25-35 years	1+(5 I.T)	4+(2 I.T)	1	1	-	-	-	-
35-45 years	1	2+(1 I.T)	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55 years	3+ (1 I.T)	2	-	-	1	1	-	1
55-65 years	1	-(2 I.T)	1	1	-	-	-	-
65 & over	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	13+(6 I.T)	11+(9 I.T)	4	4+(1 I.T)	3	1	-	1

I.T. Inward transfer.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS.

New cases on the Register
(including inward transfers)

Deaths.

No. on register at end of yr.

	Pulmonary			Non-pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-pulmonary		
	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.
1942	12	8	20	3	1	5	2	3	5	1	-	1	41	32	73	14	14	28
1943	10	6	16	1	8	9	9	5	14	-	1	1	45	38	83	14	21	35
1944	17	18	35	-	5	5	5	3	8	1	1	2	47	37	84	9	17	26
1945	17	10	27	3	6	9	6	3	10	-	1	1	51	39	90	10	22	32
1946	14	8	22	2	4	6	3	4	9	1	1	2	57	38	95	11	24	35
1947	11	7	18	2	4	6	5	6	10	1	1	2	52	36	88	12	24	34
1948	12	13	25	1	4	5	8	5	16	1	-	1	40	30	70	5	14	19
1949	22	17	39	5	1	6	4	8	7	1	-	-	55	38	93	6	14	20
1950	16	11	27	2	3	5	9	3	12	2	1	3	59	45	104	7	17	24
1951	22	9	31	2	2	4	4	3	5	1	1	2	74	47	121	9	14	23
1952	17	17	34	1	6	7	2	1	3	1	-	-	83	61	144	10	17	27
1953	11	17	28	7	7	14	9	1	10	3	-	-	82	72	154	13	23	36
1954	27	15	42	2	2	4	2	1	3	1	-	1	104	77	181	13	23	36
1955	19	20	39	4	5	9	3	1	4	-	-	-	113	85	198	14	23	37

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER, 1955.

Quarter ended	No. of cases on register at commencement of quarter		No. of cases notified for the first time.		No. of cases removed from register.		No. of cases remaining.	
	Pul.	Non-pul	Pul.	Non-pul	Pul.	Non-pul	Pul.	Non-pul.
31st March, 1955	Males 104 Females 77	13 23	4 4	2 2	4 3	- -	104 78	15 25
30th June, 1955	Males 104 Females 78	15 25,	4 4	1 3	- 2	- 1	108 80	16 27
30th Sept. 1955	Males 108 Females 80	16 27	7 5	- -	7 4	- 2	108 81	16 25
31st Dec. 1955	Males 108 Females 81	16 25	5 6	- -	- 2	2 2	113 85	14 23

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district has a piped water supply provided by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. I am again indebted to the Engineer of the Company for supplying the following information relating to the bacteriological and chemical analyses of samples of water taken throughout the Company's area during the year under review.

Bacteriological Analysis.

Bacteriological analyses were made on 1074 samples of filtered water, and 99.35% were found to be free of Bact. Coli (type 1) per 100 ml. A further 316 samples taken from various parts of the area served by the Undertaking were examined, of which 94% were classified as either "Highly Satisfactory" or "Satisfactory" and check samples taken of the remaining 6% all proved "Satisfactory".

Chemical Analysis.

Bi-monthly chemical analyses carried out by a firm of Consulting Chemists on samples drawn from consumers' taps proved that the high standard of the purity of water supplied by the Undertaking is being maintained.

DRAINAGE SYSTEMS AND DRAIN TESTING.

The duties relating to the supervision of the lay-out of new drainage systems, and in connection with the repair and reconstruction of existing systems was again considerable.

The bulk of the work in the former instance, in which 2714 yards of drainage work were tested, was associated with the construction of the new section of the St. Nicholas Hospital. In the latter instance, 334 yards were tested.

The drain cleansing service executed by the Health Department was again in steady demand. A nominal charge is made, and one of the supreme advantages attached to such a service is that choked drains are speedily, and efficiently dealt with.

I think a word of advice at this stage to residents in general would not be amiss, and it is to state that if a periodic inspection of drainage systems was undertaken, much of the work attached to the clearing of choked drains would be eliminated. Unless reasonable access to the drainage system is afforded, inspection cannot properly be undertaken. In this case, I would further advise that provision be made for greater access to the system, and for the installation of a modern intercepting trap, where this is not already installed.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse Collection.

Apart from specific periods, i.e. periods following public holidays or during abnormal weather conditions a weekly collection of refuse was maintained. It has always been my earnest endeavour to arrange for collection to take place on the same day each week, and indeed, if possible, at the same hour.

To attempt to follow a rigid time-table following a public holiday is a problem of some magnitude. Two alternatives are available, firstly, to commence work one or two days, according to the extent of the holiday, behind schedule and endeavour to catch up in the space of a week or two, or secondly, to miss out entirely the lost collection day(s). In making a choice of the alternatives I find myself in a dilemma, for abandonment of the time-table for a week or two brings forth a number of complaints, while to adhere to the time-table at the expense of those householders who are normally visited on the particular day(s) gives rise to many complaints by the minority.

The quantity of house refuse removed during the summer months showed no serious reduction, the lack of ash content being made up considerably by the inclusion of large quantities of garden refuse. Throughout the year, the quantity of trade refuse removed, remained fairly high, even shops of moderate size producing huge quantities of refuse. It is not an extravagant representation of facts to state that quite a number of shops have not less than twenty containers of refuse to be removed each week. This state of affairs is made all the more surprising when I recall that in addition to the normal weekly collection of refuse from all premises, certain premises i.e. meat purveyors, bakehouses, fishmongers, fruiterers, etc. receive a bi-weekly collection.

Refuse Disposal.

The Benton Tip, situated in the Urban District of Longbenton continued to be the main point for the disposal of refuse, where, approximately 10300 tons of refuse from this district were disposed of. The expenditure incurred in the controlled tipping operation is borne equally by the Longbenton Urban District Council and by this Authority.

Salvage Disposal.

The tonnage of waste paper forwarded to the paper mills during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1956, showed a tremendous increase upon the previous year. No less than 390 tons were forwarded to the mills as against 284 tons the previous year. The figure of 399 tons represents 1.35 tons per 1000 of population per month and greatly exceeds the minimum target figure, which I have always thought the district was capable of i.e. 1 ton per 1000 of population per month.

There can be no doubt that the incentive bonus scheme which I submitted to you during the year, and to which you gave your approval, has played an important role in the recovery of such a large quantity of waste paper. I must, however, record my sincere appreciation once more of the excellent efforts of the residents of Gosforth without whose help, the scheme could not have been so successful.

Transport.

The three-year guarantee relating to the four Shelvoke & Drewry Fore and Aft tipping vehicles which were purchased in 1952 has expired. Looking back over these three years I can state categorically that the expense involved in the purchase of these vehicles has been fully justified. They have proved to be a sound investment, there have been no major breakdowns, and given reasonable care and attention, these vehicles should continue to give excellent service for many years to come.

Costing Returns (1954-55).

Our Return compared quite favourably with that of neighbouring authorities of comparable size, when based on the cost per 1000 of population or cost per 1000 premises. The figures relating to the cost per ton can be quite misleading unless the whole of the refuse is weighed. Authorities which weighed 80% or more of their refuse showed an average net cost per ton, collection and disposal of 44/-, while the corresponding figure relating to Authorities weighing less than 80% showed a net cost of 30/3d. per ton.

Staff.

Once again it gives me great pleasure to offer Mr. George Oliver and the outside staff a word of praise. The excellent team work of the various squads, largely contributed to the smooth running of this important branch of the Department.

COST STATEMENT 1955-56.

Item	Particulars	Collection	Disposal	Totals	Percentage of total gross ex- penditure.
	1	2	3	4	5
	REVENUE ACCOUNT (Note (a))	£	£	£	%
1	GROSS EXPENDITURE:-				
	(i) Labour (note (b))	7785	1734	9519	60.67
	(ii) Transport (note (c))	3637	1050	4687	29.87
	(iii) Plant, equipment, land and buildings (note (d))	121	192	313	2.00
	(iv) Other items	154	1016	1170	7.46
	(v) Total gross expenditure	11697	3992	15689	100.
2	GROSS INCOME	65	3255	3320	-
3	NET COST	11632	737	12369	-
4	Capital expenditure met from revenue	-	-	-	-
	<u>UNIT COSTS</u>				
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
5	Gross cost per ton, labour only	14 6	3 3	17 9	
6	Gross cost per ton, transport only	6 10	1 11	8 9	
7	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	21 9	1 4	23 1	
		£	£	£	
8	Net cost per 1000 population	470	30	500	
9	Net cost per 1000 premises	1409	89	1498	

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS.

10. Area (statute acres) - land and inland water	1739 acres
11. Population at 30th June, 1955 (Registrar-General's Estimate).....	24730 persons
12. Total refuse collected (tons) (Test Weighings)....	10720 tons
13. Weight (cwts) per 1000 population per day (365 days to year).....	23.75 cwts.
14. Number of premises from which refuse is collected	8259 premises
15. Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly	100% of total
16. Average haul, single journey, to final disposal point (including -- miles by secondary transport)	4 miles
17. Kerbside collection expressed as estimated percentage of total collection	Nil%
18. Total refuse disposed of, (of which -- tons were disposed of for other local authorities).....	10720 tons
19. Methods of disposal (Salvage excluded):	
(a) Crude tipping	Nil%
(b) Controlled tipping	100%
(c) Direct incineration	Nil%
(d) Separation and incineration	Nil%
(e) Other methods (state nature)	Nil%
	<u>100%</u>
20. Salvage Analysis of income and tonnage:	

	Income (Included in Item 2)	Tonnage Collected (Included in Item 12).
	£	Tons
(a) Raw Kitchen Waste (note (a))	-	Nil
(b) Scrap Metal	23	4
(c) Waste Paper	3232	399
(d) Other salvage	-	-
(e) Totals	<u>3255</u>	<u>403</u>

(NOTES - COST STATEMENT)

- (a) Comprising the expenditure directly attributable to the service, including sums paid to other local authorities. Excluding all expenditure and income arising from the operation of kitchen waste processing plant but including expenditure on normal collection of raw kitchen waste and (against Items 2 and 20 (a)) an appropriate amount of income corresponding to its sale.
- (b) "Labour" means all employees other than clerical staff, drivers and mechanics. Expenditure includes holiday and sick pay, bonus payments, all superannuation charges, employer's contributions to national insurance and the cost of protective clothing and uniforms.
- (c) Transport means all types of vehicles, and expenditure includes running and maintenance costs, wages of drivers and mechanics and other revenue expenses (including loan charges).
- (d) Including running costs, maintenance expenses, loan charges and all sums charged to revenue account in respect of the provision or renewal of buildings, plant, dustbins, etc.

HOUSING.

During the year the Council gave consideration to my report which I had submitted to the Health Committee toward the end of 1954 on the dwelling houses in Dunn Street, Chapel Street and South Street, all situated in the Coxlodge district.

It was resolved that the area comprising houses Nos. 1 - 5 South Street and Nos. 2 - 8 Chapel Street be declared a Clearance Area within the meaning of Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

(Section 1) (Submission of proposals for dealing with houses which appear to be unfit for human habitation).

Proposals submitted to the Minister, and subsequently provisionally approved, showed that it is the intention of this Council to deal with one hundred and sixty-one unfit houses within the next ten years, and that one hundred of these houses will be dealt with within the next five years.

This particular group of houses does not include many old and sub-standard houses in the district which possess border-line characteristics and present a more difficult problem. These houses, lacking in really essential amenities are, as I have stated in previous reports, likely to be "dated" by modern developments in housing. The problem is whether these houses should be left to age without major housing action, or whether they should be vigorously dealt with, with a view to up-grading them into dry, well-lighted and ventilated houses possessing modern amenities such as hot and cold water, baths, interior sanitation where possible, proper and adequate food storage and washing accommodation.

Section 26 (1) (Applications for Certificates of Disrepair).

During the year nine applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received and these, together with nine applications received during December 1954 were dealt with. Five applications were subsequently withdrawn, one application was refused and the remainder granted.

Section 26 (4) (Application for revocation of Certificate of Disrepair).

Nine applications for the revocation of Certificates of Disrepair were received, and all were granted.

Tabular Statement.

Houses erected during the year:-

(a) by Local Authority	24
(b) by Private persons	9
(1) The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	165
(2) The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	142
(3) The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to	
(a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works, or	23
(b) the making of demolition or closing orders	Nil
(4) The number of notices served requiring the execution of works	23

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (5) The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices | 23 |
| (6) The number of demolition or closing orders made | Nil |
| (7) The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (3) of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. | Nil |
| (8) The number of houses demolished (CLEARANCE AREAS) | 23 |

RODENT INFESTATION.

The amount of work entailed in this connection showed a 100% increase upon the previous year. This was particularly evident with rat infestations, which involved just under five hundred visits. It is difficult to account for the increase, the infestations being sporadic, and not concentrated in any one part of the district. Sewer maintenance treatments were carried out as in previous years and the results, which are described below, showed no increase in the rat population in the sewers. On the whole, however, it is gratifying to learn that in no instance, either with rats or mice, was any major infestation encountered.

As in previous years the rodenticides Warfarin with a bait-base of oatmeal, and Zinc-phosphide with a bait-base of sausage rusk were used. The former was principally used in surface infestations, while the latter was used in the treatment of sewers.

Sewer Treatments.

Treatment No.	No. of Man-holes treated.	Poison Takes.	
		Partial	Complete.
1	131	6	-
2	132	13	-

The cost incurred in the above treatments amounted to £45, 50/- of which will rank for reimbursement from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

The number of verminous premises dealt with during the year was again relatively few. No bed-bug infestations were encountered and in only three cases was it found necessary to treat premises infested with fleas. Other vermin dealt with, predominant among which was the cockroach, included the red spider. This is a tiny red insect, quite harmless, living and breeding on grasses, fruit trees and clover etc. The incidence of these insects is greatly increased during spells of dry warm weather. It was particularly noticed that where infestations of this insect occurred, they occurred only in premises which had gardens attached and where the lawn was in direct contact with the part of the building infested by the insect.

A number of enquiries were received in connection with the commoner type of garden insect, and in most cases, the premises were dealt with by the Health Department.

TENTS, VANS & SHEDS.Public Health Act, 1936.
(Section 269)

There is only one licensed site in the district, on which is situated a trailer caravan, used for human habitation, and occupied by one person only.

A site adjoining a garage on the west side of the Great North Road was found to be used for the unauthorised siting of trailer caravans. Six caravans were situated on the site, two of which were used for human habitation. An approach was made to the owner of the land and at the end of the year, the site had been cleared of caravans.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948.

There are ninety-two registered factories in the district, seventy-two mechanical factories and twenty non-mechanical factories, and five other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Authority.

Number of visits and notices served are shown as follows:-

Factories.	No. on Register.	No. of Inspections	Notices Served.
Mechanical	72	163	9
Non-Mechanical	20	50	2
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	5	15	-
	97	228	11

The type of defect dealt with is shown as follows:-

Particulars	Defects found	Defects remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	1	1	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:-			
(a) Insufficient	1	-	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	1
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-
(d) Other offences	5	5	-
	11	10	2

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

Milk Supply.

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Number of dealers licences issued to retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk	3
Number of supplementary licences issued to retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk	14

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Number of dealers licences issued to retail "Pasteurised" milk	9
Number of dealers licences issued to retail "Tuberculin Tested" (Pasteurised) milk	6
Number of supplementary licences issued to retail "Tuberculin Tested" (Pasteurised) milk	8
Number of supplementary licences issued to retail "Pasteurised" milk	12
Number of dealers licences issued to retail "Sterilised" milk	24
Number of supplementary licences issued to retail "Sterilised" milk	2

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Number of persons registered as Distributors of milk	31
Number of premises registered as Dairies	2

Samples of Milk.

During the year one hundred and nineteen samples of milk were procured, but of this number six were declared void, owing to the atmospheric shade temperature, at which samples are to be kept, prior to testing, exceeding 65°F.

The figures relating to the bacteriological examination of Tuberculin Tested (Farn Bottled) milk portrays a dismal picture, sixteen samples out of a total of fifty-two failing to pass the Methylene Blue test. The number of producers associated with these unsatisfactory samples was four. In the case of one producer, the milk failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test on no less than seven occasions.

Last year's corresponding figures were quite good, only five samples out of a total of thirty-four failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue Test.

In repeated instances of milk failing to pass the Statutory Test, a notification is forwarded to the County Milk Production Officer.

It is pleasing to note that of fifteen samples submitted for examination for tubercle bacilli, all were found to be negative.

Samples of Ice-Cream.

During the year thirty samples of ice-cream, twenty-two pre-wrapped, and eight 'loose' were procured, and submitted to the Methylene Blue Test.

The results of the examination of these samples together with their respective provisional grading are shown as follows:-

Type of Sample.	Time taken to	Provisional	% of	
Prewrapped Loose.	Reduce Methylene Blue.	Grade.	Total.	
16	1	4½ hours or more	1	56.7
2	1	2½ hours - 4 hours	2	10.0
-	1	½ hour - 2 hours	3	3.3
4	5	0 hours	4	30.0

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

34.

GRADE	B. Tuberculosis			Methylene Blue			Phosphatase/Turbidity Test.			
	Negative	Positive	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	Satisfactory
Tuberculin Tested Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled) Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Pasteurised Sterilised	-	-	-	2	-	2	100.0	-	-	-
	15	-	15	36	16	52	69.23	-	-	-
	-	-	-	4	-	4	100.0	-	4	100.0
	-	-	-	50	-	50	100.0	-	50	100.0
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	100.0
Totals	15	-	15	92	16	108	85.18	-	59	100.0

One unsatisfactory feature of these results is the fact that 30% of the samples fell into grade 4. The position is further aggravated by the fact that practically 50% of the samples falling into grade 4, were prewrapped.

All ice-cream retailed within the district is manufactured outside the district, and close contact is maintained with those authorities within whose district the ice-cream is manufactured.

Food & Drugs Act, 1938 (Section 57).

The Slaughterhouses Act, 1954 (Section 3.)

An application for the renewal of a slaughter house licence was received from Mes. rs. T. W. Arble & Son of 160 High Street, Gosforth in respect of the private slaughter house situated at the rear of 160 High Street. The applicant indicated in his application that he desired the licence to cover a period of three years. The licence was renewed and will expire on the 31st January, 1957.

Apart from the one private slaughter house referred to above, which is used solely for the occupier's own requirements, the slaughter of food animals to meet the requirements of other meat purveyors in the district is carried out in abattoirs situated outside the district.

Acting in accordance with a resolution of the Council, inquiries were made among the various meat purveyors in the district with a view to ascertaining whether there existed a reasonable demand for a public abattoir in Gosforth. The inquiry showed that the demand was extremely small and it was resolved that no further action be taken in this matter.

Details of all animals slaughtered in the district and the results of the inspection of carcasses are shown in the following table :-

Note - the twelve pigs referred to in the table were slaughtered at the St. Nicholas Hospital and were for consumption on the premises only.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle Excl. Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	193	Nil	23	708	12	Nil
Number inspected	193	Nil	23	708	12	Nil
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u> Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	22	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	11.4%	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u> Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.6%	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis</u> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Food Premises.

The number and type of various food premises in the district is shown as follows:-

Type of Premises	No.	Type of Premises	No.
Grocers	31	Premises with off-licence	8
General Dealers	26	Retail Bakers	7
Meat Purveyors	20	Fishmongers & Poulterers	5
Fruiterers	19	Bakehouses	4
Licensed Premises	15	Fried Fish and Chips	4
Confectioners	10	Cafes	3

Frequent inspections of all food premises throughout the district were made. The inspections included vehicles used for the transport and/or sale of food for human consumption. During the year thirty-nine informal notices were served in connection with infringements of Section 13 Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

All notices, including a notice which had not been complied with at the end of the previous year, were complied with.

Out of a total of one hundred and fifty-two food premises in the district, eight premises are still not provided with a constant supply of hot water. It is a matter of some regret that present legislation does not permit the enforcement of such a provision.

Registration of Food Premises.

(Sec. 14 Food & Drugs Act, 1938).

The number and type of food premises in the district which are registered under Section 14 Food and Drugs Act, 1938 is shown as follows:-

Type of Premises	No. Regd.	Type of Premises.	No.Regd.
General Dealers	22	Bakehouses	4
Meat Purveyors	15	Retail Bakers	4
Confectioners	10	Fruiterers	2
Grocers	7	Cafe	1
Fried Fish & Chips	6		

Forty-six premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, and twenty-five premises are registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food, intended for sale. There are no premises in the district registered for the manufacture of ice-cream.

Food & Drugs Act, 1938 (Section 9)
(Sale etc. of unsound food).

During the year I had to report four cases concerning the sale of food intended for, but deemed to be unfit for, human consumption, by the finding of extraneous matter within the food.

In each of three of these cases, on the instruction of the Council, warning letters were sent to the persons concerned with the sale of food, and in the remaining case, which concerned the finding of a dead mouse in a bag of flour, legal proceedings were instituted, and a conviction obtained.

Unsound Food (Voluntarily Surrendered).

The following articles of food weighing 814 pounds were examined following their voluntary surrender and condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

178 lbs. Imported Beef	56 Tins Meat
27 lbs. English Beef	56 " Fruit
135 lbs. Small Fancy Cakes	30 " Vegetables
41 lbs. Bacon	16 " Milk
19 lbs. Ham	12 (only) Pigs Kidneys
18 lbs. Sausage	9 Tins Soup
13 lbs. Cheese	7 " Tomatoes
6 sts. Fish	6 Pkts. Cheese
14 doz. Meat Pies	2 " Macaroni
14 (only) Malt Loaves	2 Tins Fish

Disposal of Condemned Food.

Following the practice of previous years, condemned meat, when in large quantities, was forwarded to a local firm for processing into animal feeding meal, fertilisers, glues etc., prior to which it was suitably stained. All other types of food not suitable for processing were destroyed in the incinerator situated in the Council yard.

Adulteration of Food.

I am again greatly indebted to Mr. Arlidge, Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department, Northumberland County Council for supplying me with the details of the work of his sampling officers in the urban district of Gosforth.

Mr. Arlidge informed me that one hundred and forty-three samples were procured, which consisted of fifty samples of milk, eighty-seven samples other than milk and six samples taken under the Merchandise Marks Act.

Only two of these samples were adversely reported upon by the Public Analyst, and in neither instance, did the irregularity call for the institution of legal proceedings.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

The following tables present a summary of visits made by your Sanitary Officers, and sanitary improvements effected during the year.

TABLE 1.

Dwelling Houses	1328
Cinemas and Dance Halls	12
Ditches and Streams	11
Drainage Systems	426
Drain Test:-	
Smoke	21
Water	155
Factories (Mechanical)	163
(Non-Mechanical)	50
Infectious Diseases Enquiries	279
Disinfections	23
Revisits	815
National Assistance Act	73
Rodent Infestation:-	
Rats	499
Mice	199
Refuse Collection - Supervision	177
Schools re Sanitation	3
Shops Act	52
Tents, Vans and Sheds	12
Milk Samples	119
Food Premises	562
Slaughter Houses	110
Vermineous Premises:-	
Inspected	28
Treated	43
Re-inspected	35
Miscellaneous	188
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	5383

TABLE 11.

Ceiling plaster repaired or renewed	12
Chimneys or chimney stacks repaired	5
Dangerous walls repaired	2
Doors repaired, rehung or renewed	10
Eaves-gutters cleaned-out, rep'd or ren'd	30
External walls pointed	20
Fallspouts repaired or renewed	18
Firegrates repaired, reset or renewed	3
Floors repaired, ventilated, etc.	16
Roofs repaired	26
Sashcords renewed	18
Sink draining boards renewed/repared	2
Sinks (new) provided and fixed	1
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	4
Skirting boards repaired or renewed	1
Walls rendered internally	34
Wallplaster repaired or renewed	17
Water supplies repaired or renewed	14
Windows repaired; made to open	6
Yards and passages paved and drained	1
Yard paving repaired	5
Choked drains cleansed	17
Dustbins provided	63
W.C. basins renewed	8
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	2
W.C. structures repaired or renewed	2
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	337

CONCLUSION.

In concluding my report I would like to thank the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council, the Chairman of the Health Committee, and other members of the Council, for the help and support given to me during the year.

I would also like to take this opportunity of expressing to Dr. Hopper my sincere thanks for her ready assistance and kindly advice, and to all other Chief Officials for their advice and co-operation on the many and varied matters occurring during the year.

It gives me very great pleasure indeed to place on record once more sincere appreciation of the high standard of work carried out by Mr. Oxley and by the clerical staff. I am indeed grateful to them for their continued loyalty and support throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,.

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE STENGER,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

